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Letter dated 16 April 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the following statement on Ethiopia/Eritrea (Boundary Commission decision) issued on 15 April 2002 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Inocencio F. **Arias**
Ambassador
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Annex to the letter dated 16 April 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on Ethiopia/Eritrea (Boundary Commission decision) issued on 15 April 2002 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the decision of the Boundary Commission announced in The Hague on 13 April. The final legal settlement of the position of the Ethiopia/Eritrea border is a central element of the comprehensive peace agreement signed by the leaders of Ethiopia and Eritrea on 12 December 2000 and the peace process between the two countries.

The European Union stresses the need for the implementation of all the provisions of the comprehensive peace agreement and the cessation of hostilities agreement. In this regard, the European Union pledges its full support to the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), which has an important role to assist Ethiopia and Eritrea in implementing the decision of the Boundary Commission. The European Union also expresses its support to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ambassador Legwaila. The European Union underlines that in order to fulfil their facilitation role, UNMEE and, particularly, the Special Representative, require permanent access to the appropriate government authorities.

The European Union urges both sides to safeguard the peace on the ground by fully respecting the temporary security zone and maintaining continued separation of forces and ensuring there is no unilateral movement of population or troops, as these arrangements will set the conditions necessary for the process of demarcation to begin.

The war between Ethiopia and Eritrea had a devastating impact on both countries. The Boundary Commission decision provides an opportunity for both parties to move forward and take the necessary steps to assist the normalization of relations.

In this regard, the European Union calls upon the parties further to intensify dialogue with each other and other parties involved in the peace process in order to ensure an orderly transfer of territorial control in line with the decision of the Boundary Commission.

The European Union urges both parties to respect the rights of the individuals affected by the delimitation and demarcation of the border and to ensure that any movement of population will be carried out on a voluntary basis.

The European Union remains committed to support the peace process, especially through the Special Representative of the Presidency, Senator Serri. The European Union also recognizes that international assistance is still required to address the immediate needs of civilians directly affected by the conflict and declares its willingness to assist in both countries, within the context of the implementation of the decision of the Boundary Commission, as well as to support

all efforts towards normalization and lasting reconciliation between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries, Norway and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.